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Summary record of the 40th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 9 December 2011, at 3 p.m.

Chair: Mr. Momen ..... (Bangladesh)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

Agenda item 16: Information and communications technologies for development (*continued*) (A/C.2/66/L.21 and L.80)

Draft resolution entitled "Information and communications technologies for development" (A/C.2/66/L.21 and L.80)

1. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.80, which was being submitted by Mr. Yohanna (Nigeria) on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.21. He took it that the Committee was prepared to waive the 24-hour requirement under rule 120 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

2. *It was so decided.*

3. **Ms. de Laurentis** (Secretary of the Committee), making a statement of programme budget implications and referring to paragraph 19 of the draft resolution, said that the resource requirements for convening the one-day meeting involving all Member States and other stakeholders and for the reporting of the outcome of the meeting were estimated at $61,300, for which provision had not been made in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013. That provision would cover one work-month of general temporary assistance ($15,000); travel, daily subsistence allowance and terminal expenses for three experts ($12,000); and administrative and conference servicing requirements ($34,300).

4. If the draft resolution was adopted, the Secretary-General would, to the extent possible, make every effort to implement the resolution from within the existing resources of Section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management ($33,400); Section 12, Trade and development ($27,000); and Section 29E, Administration, Geneva ($900) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013. Hence, no additional programme budget implications would arise for the proposed programme budget for that biennium.

5. **Mr. de Bassompierre** (Belgium) said that the consensus on the draft resolution was a good example of the Committee putting into practice the spirit of the United Nations.

6. *Draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.80 was adopted.*

7. **Ms. Morgan** (United States of America) said that the draft resolution highlighted the essential role that information and communication technologies played in development and recognized the Internet Governance Forum's important contributions. There was overwhelming consensus that Internet governance discussions and policymaking needed to include the full range of stakeholders, a position that was enshrined in the Forum's inclusive structure. The one-day meeting proposed in the resolution provided another opportunity for Member States to enhance cooperation on international Internet public policy issues as set forth by the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society. The resolution should remain tightly focused on bridging the digital divide as part of overall efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

8. Her Government remained concerned about the budgetary implications of the resolution and believed that the one-day meeting must be financed through existing resources in recognition of the constrained budgetary environment in which United Nations organizations currently operated.

9. **Ms. Klausa** (Poland), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that in joining the consensus on the draft resolution, the European Union showed its strong commitment to information and communication technologies for development. It was regrettable that important discussion on the substance of the draft resolution had been overshadowed by disagreements over the importance of ensuring budgetary rigor and cost-effective use of resources. In view of the current environment of economic uncertainty and the need for budgetary consolidation, it was important for resources to be used in the most efficient way. The same strict budgetary discipline that Member States were required to apply nationally must also be applied system-wide at the United Nations.

10. *Draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.21 was withdrawn.*

Agenda item 18: Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development and the 2008 Review Conference (*continued*) (A/C.2/66/L.11 and A/C.2/66/L.79)

Draft resolution on follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development and the 2008 Review Conference (A/C.2/66/L.11 and A/C.2/66/L.79)

11. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.79, which was being submitted by Mr. Zdorov (Belarus), Vice Chair, on the

basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.11.

12. **Ms. de Laurentis** (Secretary of the Committee), making a statement of programme budget implications for the draft resolution and referring to paragraphs 13, 22 and 33, said that interpretation services in all six languages and other support services would be required for seven meetings, comprising one meeting for the special event in 2012 on the financing of social development to be organized by the Secretary-General in cooperation with the Chair of the Fiftieth Session of the Commission for Social Development, one meeting for the special event on innovative mechanisms of financing for development to be organized during the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council in 2012 by the President of the Economic and Social Council and five meetings for informal consultations to be held with a view to taking a final decision on the need for a follow-up financing for development conference by 2013.

13. The requirements to service those seven meetings with interpretation and other support services would be covered by using the budgetary provisions allotted to service the General Assembly and the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council on the understanding that there would be no parallel meetings of the General Assembly or its Working Groups at the same time and the special event on innovative mechanisms of financing for development would be part of the programme of work for the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council in 2012.

14. As for the final decision on whether to hold a follow-up financing for development conference by 2013, which had not yet been taken by the General Assembly based on the informal consultations to be held in accordance with paragraph 33, should the General Assembly decide to hold the conference during the biennium 2012-2013, the Secretary-General would submit details of the financial implications to the General Assembly in accordance with established procedures based on the modalities of the conference decided by the General Assembly.

15. If the draft resolution was adopted, no additional programme budget implications would arise for the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013.

16. **Mr. Pintado** (Mexico), Vice Chair, facilitator of the draft resolution, said that a number of editorial amendments had been made to the text that had not been agreed upon, requiring oral correction. In the eighth preambular paragraph, the words "and the recommendations" should be deleted. In paragraph 2, the phrase "cannot be overemphasized" should be placed before "for the achievement of sustainable development". In paragraph 10, "in enhancing" should be replaced with "to enhance". In paragraph 12, "promoting empowerment and improving empowerment of women" should be replaced with "empowering while improving empowerment of women". In paragraph 13, the phrase "of efforts to achieve the implementation" should be replaced with "for the implementation". The end of paragraph 24 should read "and acknowledges that sovereign debt crises tend to be costly and disruptive, including for employment and productive investments, and tend to be followed by cuts in public spending, including on health and education, affecting, in particular, the poor and vulnerable". In paragraph 29, the words "achievement of the" should be deleted.

17. **Mr. Schuldt** (Ecuador) said that the words "sustainable development" should be changed to "social development" at the end of paragraph 13 in the Spanish version of the draft resolution to reflect the English text.

18. *Draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.79, as orally revised, was adopted.*

19. **Ms. Klausa** (Poland), speaking in explanation of position on behalf of the European Union; the acceding country Croatia; the candidate countries Iceland, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; stabilization and association process countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina; and, in addition, Armenia, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that those countries had joined the consensus on the draft resolution. The European Union and its Member States remained strongly committed to the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development and the Doha Declaration, the eradication of poverty, the achievement of sustained economic growth and the promotion of sustainable development and had collectively delivered more than half of global aid in 2011. Those countries' collective commitment to contributing 0.7 per cent of gross national income in aid had been reaffirmed at the highest political level despite the current difficult economic situation. In that regard, they attached great importance to the principles

of aid effectiveness reaffirmed at the Fourth High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness held in Busan, Republic of Korea, which formed the basis of its efforts to strengthen the effectiveness and impact of development aid and improve accountability. The main objectives of the Forum had been to review evidence and commitments to aid effectiveness and to extend the agenda to aid and development effectiveness. A new partnership had been created at the Forum between emerging economies and the private sector, forming the basis for improving the quality and effectiveness of development cooperation in achieving sustainable development results. The Forum marked a conceptual shift from aid effectiveness to aid and development effectiveness, which needed to be put at the top of the agenda to ensure that the United Nations remained relevant on all debates on that topic.

20. *Draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.11 was withdrawn together with the associated statement of programme budget implications contained in A/C.2/66/L.49.*

Agenda item 19: Sustainable development (*continued*) (A/C.2/66/L.32)

Draft resolution on sustainable development (A/C.2/66/L.32)

21. **The Chair** said that, in view of the note verbale that the secretariat had received from the Permanent Mission of Peru, requesting that the matter should be kept open under agenda item 19 to allow informal consultation on the draft resolution to continue in 2012, the Committee would not take action on the draft resolution. To that end, the Office of the President of the General Assembly would be advised to keep agenda item 19 open.

Agenda item 121: Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (*continued*) (A/C.2/66/L.81)

Draft programme of work of the Second Committee for the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly

22. **The Chair** drew attention to the Committee's draft programme of work for the sixty-seventh session (A/C.2/66/L.81).

23. **Ms. de Laurentis** (Secretary of the Committee) said that sub-item 6 (a) entitled "Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence" should be deleted from the draft programme of work of the Second Committee for the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly in line with draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.74, whereby that item had been biennialized. The item would be included in the Committee's programme of work for its sixty-eighth session.

24. *The draft programme of work of the Second Committee for the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly submitted by the Chair, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

Agenda item 135: Programme planning (*continued*)

25. **The Chair** informed the Committee that he had been advised by the Secretariat that there were no matters requiring the Committee's attention or action under that agenda item. He took it that the Committee decided that no action was required under that agenda item.

26. *It was so decided.*

Working methods of the Second Committee

27. **The Chair**, recalling General Assembly decision 65/530 on improving the working methods of the Committee and the invitation to the Chairs of the Main Committees to brief the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly on committee working methods contained in paragraph 15 of General Assembly resolution 65/315, invited the Bureau and delegations to provide input on the topic.

28. **Mr. Devanlay** (Observer for the European Union) said that the fact that more resolutions than ever before had been of a procedural nature in preparation for the upcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development was a welcome development. It was hoped that the approach would set a precedent for the Committee's future work and that the practice would be replicated in the run-up to other major United Nations conferences. Nonetheless, it was regrettable that the Committee had not adopted a decision under agenda item 121 at the current session. Improvements in the relevance of the Committee's agenda and the effectiveness of its work were needed in order to address current challenges and realities in the field of economics and sustainable development.

29. It was regrettable that existing General Assembly mandates to biennialize, triennialize, cluster and eliminate some agenda items had not been implemented and that the Committee had been unable

to make any progress in that regard during the current session. Delegations looking to table new draft proposals and the next Bureau of the Second Committee were encouraged to take into consideration the need to streamline the agenda and improve the working methods of the Committee.

30. **Ms. Hay** (New Zealand), speaking also on behalf of Australia and Canada, said that her delegation was disappointed that time had not been allocated for a discussion of the Committee's working methods and proposed to hold such a discussion at the beginning of the Committee's next session in October 2012. There was still room for improvement, as demonstrated by the need for two additional weeks of Second Committee activities in 2011.

31. As had been suggested at the previous session, some ways to help conclude work on time included streamlining draft texts and proposals, avoiding long texts that repeated language from previous years and avoiding duplication and overlap with other resolutions in the Committee or the Economic and Social Council, thereby improving both the quality and relevance of the resolutions. In particular, the Committee should consider the merits of a macroeconomic omnibus resolution. Further, the sponsors of draft resolutions should keep to the deadlines provided by the Bureau and agenda items should be left open only in exceptional circumstances. All of the Committee's work should be concluded within the allotted time. New text should be highlighted in the initial drafts of resolutions and, where relevant, the sources should be identified. That would expedite receiving instructions from capitals and reduce the time spent in introductory meetings explaining changes to the text.

32. The Committee's agenda must be reviewed critically to determine how often resolutions should be considered and whether particular agenda items needed to be continued. At the current session, New Zealand, Australia and Canada had proposed that a number of resolutions should be biennialized or even triennialized to allow them to reflect developments over a longer time frame.

33. While acknowledging the usefulness of "QuickPlace", a secure online shared workspace for the dissemination of draft proposals, there was a need for greater standardisation in its use and its expansion to other documents.

34. The Bureau for the sixty-seventh session should consider transitioning to a "paperless" system, where statements could be posted on the Committee's website or "QuickPlace", rather than circulated in the meeting room. Such an approach, already being utilized by the Fifth Committee, was particularly relevant for the Second Committee, since it addressed sustainable development.

35. **Mr. Marks** (United States of America) said that the biennialization of resolutions would allow the Committee to delve deeper into their subject matter and help delegations to become more involved. It should be determined whether Committee resolutions needed to be repeated in the Economic and Social Council and whether some were better suited to one body or the other. To address the proliferation of competing resolutions under the same agenda items, it would be better to arrive at a consensus and work from one text to avoid duplication. Finally, with regard to meeting deadlines, he noted that it had been difficult for the Committee to hold informal consultations early in the session because many of the conference rooms had been in use by the Third Committee.

Completion of the main part of the Committee's work

36. **The Chair**, in his closing remarks, thanked all delegations, in particular the Vice-Chairs, the Rapporteur, the facilitators of the draft proposals and the members of the Secretariat, and also acknowledged the efforts of many staff members who had facilitated the Committee's work. The effectiveness of its work was an important determinant of the fulfilment of the United Nations development agenda. Although deliberations had been held in the context of an ongoing global financial crisis, with such issues as uneven economic recovery, sluggish international trade and fears of a spreading sovereign debt crisis creating a challenging backdrop, delegations had shown flexibility and a spirit of cooperation that had helped achieve consensus on the vast majority of the draft resolutions.

37. The Committee had continued its unique tradition of holding special events on key issues and emerging challenges in development, which had informed its work and brought it into contact with cutting-edge thinking from leading figures in academia and development practitioners. The Committee had also sent a strong signal to the 17th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention

on Climate Change and the Rio+20 Conference by swiftly reaching consensus on relevant procedural resolutions. Its deliberations also came on the heels of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. Countries in special situations were hit hardest by global economic uncertainty and the Committee had taken significant steps to follow up on the commitments made at the Conference.

38. The Committee's purpose was to promote productive dialogue around economic and financial issues with the goal of developing relevant and constructive international legislation on these matters. However, it should also be seen as an arena in which new ideas could emerge and contribute to the way development was viewed and international cooperation was pursued to address current and future challenges.

The meeting rose at 4.30 p.m.